

## THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC

PUBLISHED BY GEORGE KNAPP & CO.  
Charles W. Knapp, President and Gen. Mgr.  
George L. Allen, Vice President.  
W. B. Carr, Secretary.

Office, Corner Seventh and Olive Streets,  
(REPUBLIC BUILDING.)

## TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

DAILY AND SUNDAY—SEVEN ISSUES A WEEK.  
By Mail—In Advance—Postage Prepaid.  
One year, \$1.00  
Six months, .60  
Three months, .35  
Any three days, except Sunday, one year, .35  
Sunday with Main Issue, .25  
Special Mail Edition, Sunday, .15  
Sunday Magazine, .15  
By CARRIER, ST. LOUIS AND SUBURBS.  
Per week, daily only, .11 cents  
Per week, daily and Sunday, .15 cents  
TWICE-A-WEEK ISSUE.  
Published Monday and Thursday—one year, \$1.00  
Month by bank draft, express money order or registered letter.

Address THE REPUBLIC,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Reflected communications cannot be returned  
under any circumstances.

Entered in the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., as  
second-class matter.

POSTAGE PAID PER COPY.  
First, ten and twelve pages, .1 cent  
Sixteen, eighteen and twenty pages, .2 cent  
Twenty-two or twenty-eight pages, .3 cent  
Thirty pages, .4 cent

TELEPHONE NUMBERS.  
Bell, Kninoh,  
Cunningham-Room, Main 2018 A 675  
Editorial Reception-Room, Park 154 A 674

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1901.  
Vol. 32 No. 261

## MAY CIRCULATION.

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arrangement for lighting the buildings.  
As a semipublic institution the com-  
pany should be glad to extend the ser-  
vice as long as the convenience of the  
city might require. There is an un-  
doubted profit to the company in the  
arrangement and no reason for inter-  
posing a barrier to the popular desire for  
a municipal plant.

The Municipal Assembly should not  
give up the plan without exhausting the  
possibilities. The Missouri-Edison com-  
pany will probably be reasonable. The  
Assembly has the power to provide com-  
pensation for the extended term of  
lighting. The effort should be made.

## THE FAIR SITE.

The selection of Forest Park as the  
site for the World's Fair of 1903 ful-  
filled public expectation. Beyond any  
possible question an overwhelming ma-  
jority of the people of St. Louis expected  
and wanted the great Exposition to be  
held in or adjoining the city's greatest  
and most centrally situated park.

It was an exceptional compliment to  
the Executive Committee of the Exposi-  
tion Company that its recommendation  
of a site should receive the unanimous  
and enthusiastic approval of a board  
meeting so largely attended as that held  
yesterday. It gave gratifying evidence  
of unity and harmony in the governing  
body, which augurs well for the suc-  
cessful prosecution of the great enterprise.  
Differences and disagreements may nat-  
urally be expected to develop from time  
to time, but it is safe to predict that  
these will only stimulate individual ac-  
tivity without bringing any serious dis-  
sent.

While the selection of the site by the  
Exposition Board is necessarily a pro-  
visional action which must be reviewed  
and approved by the National Commis-  
sion before the important matter can be  
finally determined, there is no occasion  
to anticipate unfavorable action by the  
Commission. The considerations which  
made the Forest Park site the one most  
favored by popular sentiment and se-  
cured for it the unanimous approval of  
the Exposition Board may fairly be  
counted upon to produce their natural  
and legitimate impression on the Na-  
tional Commissioners.

The members of the National Commis-  
sion will hear serious objection to  
Forest Park expressed upon one line  
only. Some people fear that the native  
forest, which is now the notable feature  
of the western end of Forest Park, will  
be destroyed. Their solicitude is com-  
mendable. And The Republic would join  
in their objections if the selection of  
Forest Park as the Fair site meant  
necessarily that the forest trees must  
be cut down. Such is not the case,  
however, and Forest Park has been  
named merely as the general designa-  
tion of the Exposition location.

The city has granted the right to 608  
acres within the park, but the Exposi-  
tion Company may, by amicable ar-  
rangement with the owners or through  
condemnation proceedings under its  
lawful power, acquire additional ground  
outside the park. This can be obtained  
in simple area on three sides, north, west  
and south. In what direction and to  
what extent this extension will be made  
remains yet to be determined. There  
are fully fifteen hundred acres of avail-  
able ground, and there is no reason why  
enough should not be taken to permit  
the most complete development of the  
architectural and engineering work of  
the Exposition without serious or per-  
manent injury to the invaluable forest  
characteristics of the park.

Anticipating this as the certain out-  
come of the Forest Park selection, The  
Republic looks confidently for a prompt  
approval by the National Commission.  
With that step taken, it may be ex-  
pected that the active work of construction  
will soon begin and the people of St.  
Louis will at a very early day have  
tangible evidence of the greatest ex-  
position the world has ever seen.

## OHIO'S OBJECT LESSON.

"Local imperialism" is the term ap-  
plied by protesting Ohio Republicans  
to describe the iron rule of Senator Hanna  
as the Boss of their State organization  
and the source of their power to which  
all Ohio members of the Republican  
party must look for whatever of reward  
or honor is to come to them in public  
life.

The term is a graphic one, admirably  
fitting the case. It is doubtful whether  
a more autocratic figure has ever been  
known in American politics than that of  
Mark Hanna. He is not only a dictator  
in Ohio. He is the one who must be  
obeyed in the national councils of the  
Republican party. He is the controlling  
spirit of the national administration,  
directing the President's policies. He is  
the power behind the throne, in front  
of the throne, on both sides of the  
throne.

It is instructive to remember that  
Mark Hanna did not appear in Ameri-  
can public life until that moment when  
unamerican conditions demanded that  
the American trusts should have a polit-  
ical representative masterful enough to  
see that their will was carried out by  
the Government. Then Hanna came in-  
to view, the man and the hour arriving  
simultaneously. Up to that moment he  
had devoted himself to money-making.  
He brought his commercial methods in-  
to his public life.

The Hanna training of William Mc-  
Kinley for the presidency then began.  
Mr. McKinley's debts were paid by a  
friendly syndicate under Hanna's direc-  
tion. A campaign fund contributed by  
the trusts was lavishly used to insure  
the election of McKinley delegates to the  
Republican National Convention of 1900.  
Money and political power as the  
representative of the trusts enabled  
Hanna to insouciantly dictate the nomi-  
nation of McKinley. A gigantic slush-fund

brought about McKinley's first election.  
His utter subservience to the will of the  
trusts as expressed through Hanna  
made it certain that he would be re-  
nominated. The same evil influences  
compelled his re-election. Hanna, the  
trusts and the mighty dollar have been  
Mr. McKinley's stars of destiny.

Under the Hanna-McKinley regime it  
is now "local imperialism" in Ohio, the  
President's and Mark Hanna's State. It  
means political death to oppose them in  
Ohio. Under this same regime it is  
world-wide imperialism in this Govern-  
ment's foreign policies. The Republic-  
an who protests is condemned and pun-  
ished as a traitor. Under this regime it  
will be national imperialism and the  
complete repudiation of all true Ameri-  
can doctrine in a little while. The Han-  
na-McKinley partnership controls the  
Government and the Republican na-  
tional machine and can compel these  
things. The prospect is ominous. Mark  
Hanna's burly and insolent figure is the  
most menacing that has ever appeared  
in American public life.

## OLD-TIME DEBATE.

What memories are called up by a  
small item from Miner, a village near  
Bloomington, Ill., in which is chronicled  
the news that the Reverend Yates of the  
Cumberland Presbyterian Church and  
Elder Dorris of the Christian Church are  
engaging in a six days' debate on their  
differences in belief.

Years ago such debates were of fre-  
quent occurrence. Beginning with the  
advent of Alexander Campbell into Vir-  
ginia, the golden age of forensic debates  
in the church began. He himself was  
a remarkable man. Reared in Scotland  
of godly parents, versed in the Bible,  
with fear of no one, and oratorical tal-  
ents of the best type, he left behind  
him storehouses of religious thought in  
the communities which he visited.

In those days, the grove was usually  
chosen as the arena. The "Campbell-  
ites," as their opponents delighted to  
call them, were nearly always partici-  
pants. The expounding of the Scrip-  
tures was an art that appealed to the  
woodsmen and pioneers of Virginia,  
Kentucky, Indiana and later Missouri  
and Illinois. The debates were not lim-  
ited to one day. Sometimes a fortnight  
was consumed in argument over mooted  
questions of doctrine.

Of those who took up the challenge of  
the Christians, the Baptists were per-  
haps the most prominent. Of the same  
stock themselves, the willingness to de-  
bate the differences was natural. The  
Presbyterian followers of Calvin also  
took up the cudgel. Rare indeed were  
the days spent in these intellectual  
feasts. Families came from great dis-  
tances. If the speakers were particu-  
larly well known, visitors came from  
neighboring States.

At noon the meals were wholesome  
and in accord with the stirring truths  
that had been fed their brains. Some-  
times the blessing for the bountiful din-  
ner was followed by a series of argu-  
ments between disciples of the debaters.  
Excitement of the most intense sort at-  
tended this mental and spiritual exer-  
cise.

Still bolder did the religious fervor rise  
if perchance Mr. Owen, chief debater of  
the unbelievers, was in the arena. With  
what breathless devotion did the hearers  
await the refutation from the Bible for  
a general characteristic of these debates  
was the remarkable acquaintance that  
the speakers on both sides had with  
the Scripture.